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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Feith: Preserving Iraqi territorial integrity our top
priority - Sabah
Erdogan: US 'insensitive' to anti-democratic ambitions in
Iraq - Hurriyet
Kirkuk pain in Ankara - Sabah
Kurds claim to have 68 percent of votes in Kirkuk - Hurriyet
Talabani: Kirkuk will be a city of peace - Aksam
Talabani wants 'Brussels model' for Kirkuk - Milliyet
Boucher: We are working with GOT on PKK - Hurriyet
Abbas seeks Ankara's support for Middle East peace -
Milliyet
Israeli army chief Ya'alon arrives for defense talks - Aksam
Ankara considers sending Turkish troops to tsunami region -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Rice, Lavrov to meet in Ankara - Cumhuriyet
Feith: Iraq's unity a priority for US, Turkey - Yeni Safak
Erdogan: We won't allow chaos in Iraq - Yeni Safak
Shiite leadership wants US forces to stay in Iraq - Radikal
Shiite alliance cold to Allawi, prefer a coalition with the
Kurds - Zaman
Turkey gives Abbas full support - Radikal
Abbas: Middle East peace closer now - Zaman
Moscow agrees to activate Iran's first nuclear plant -
Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan criticizes US over Iraq: On Tuesday, PM Tayyip
Erdogan accused the United States of ignoring 'certain
developments in Iraq which our nation has deeply regretted'
at a group meeting of his ruling AK Party. 'Forces who came
to the region to bring democracy have preferred to remain
indifferent to anti-democratic ambitions,' Erdogan said,
without mentioning names. 'Let me say once again that any
step taken without considering Turkey's rights will yield no
result other than fanning the fire in the region,' Erdogan
said. Meanwhile, today's papers cited the PUK leader
Talabani as saying that the Kurds would prefer to implement
a 'Brussels model' in Kirkuk, a city where he said Kurds,
Arabs, and Turkmen could live together in peace. Talabani
claimed that the Kurdish candidate won 68 percent of ballots
cast in Kirkuk, and will control 26 of 41 seats in the
Kirkuk provincial assembly. He reiterated that Kirkuk is
'part of Iraqi Kurdistan, as shown in documents from Ottoman
times.'

Feith confirms Washington seeking cargo hub at Incirlik AB:
Douglas Feith, US Undersecretary of Defense for policy, said
that 'preserving Iraq's territorial integrity is a key to
stability and peace in the region.' The Kirkuk dispute and
other problems of concern for Turkey should be resolved 'in
a way that strengthens the territorial integrity and unity
of Iraq,' Feith told a news conference Tuesday before
wrapping up his two-day visit. 'We've had some differences
over Iraq and these differences have caused problems,' Feith
said, 'but problems are not that unusual in an alliance of
free and sovereign countries,' he added. Feith noted that
'we have had a useful, strong, deeply-rooted alliance with
Turkey for many years, and that will continue.' Feith noted
that the US and Turkey have enough good will and common
interests to keep the alliance healthy despite the problems.
He suggested that Turkey could play a leading regional role
in the fight against terrorism. Feith also confirmed that
Washington was seeking to use Incirlik airbase in Adana as a
logistical cargo hub for US forces operating in the region,

according to reports. "Cumhuriyet" claims that Feith urged Ankara to pass a law that would ease US access to Incirlik. "Hurriyet" claims that Turkey's National Security Council (NSC) Secretary-General, Yigit Alpogon, advised U/S Feith that a Sunni should be included in the Iraqi interim cabinet before general elections later this year, and that the Sunnis be included in the process of rewriting the Iraqi constitution. "Milliyet" highlighted Feith's comments on the Proliferation Security Initiative, in which he invited Turkey to take a leadership role. Feith noted that the 'Libyan model,' in which the Libyans were persuaded to give up their weapons of mass destruction under intense international pressure, could be a useful lesson for Iran. Feith confirmed that the United States no longer has an interest in permanent basing of F-16 warplanes at Incirlik, but he left open the possibility of temporary rotations of US planes through Incirlik.

Palestine's Abbas sees progress towards Middle East peace: Visiting Palestinian head of state Mahmud Abbas said after meeting President Sezer Tuesday that Israel and Palestine were holding 'continual' talks, and that preparations were underway for a meeting between he Israeli PM Ariel Sharon. Abbas said that security and peace in the region can be made a reality only through the implementation of the US-backed roadmap. Sezer told Abbas that Turkey's support for the peace process and an independent Palestinian state will increase. Abbas, accompanied by FM Nabil Shaath, met PM Erdogan and business leaders later Tuesday and will leave on Wednesday after meeting Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc.

Israeli army chief visits Turkey: Israel's chief of staff General Moshe Yaalon met with his Turkish counterpart, Hilmi Ozkok, and President Sezer for talks aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, Turkish papers report. Reports say that Yaalon bargained with Ankara about possible defense deals worth 1.5 billion dollars, including an Israeli upgrade to the Turkish military's ageing F-4 Phantom jetfighters, modernization of Turkish F-16s, and Turkey's purchase of Israeli unmanned reconnaissance planes.

EU, Cyprus warn Turkey to recognize Nicosia: The European Commission and Cyprus reminded Turkey on Tuesday it must extend its customs union with the EU to include the Republic of Cyprus before it can begin membership talks with the European bloc in early October. 'Either Ankara signs to extend its customs union agreement, or it has no talks,' Papadopoulos told the press in Nicosia. European Commission official Jean-Christophe Filori told visiting Turkish journalists in Brussels that a delay in extending Turkey's customs union agreement would be a problem, and that negotiations may not begin on time.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Ankara Seems to Dislike Iraqi Democracy"
Cengiz Candar wrote in the conservative "DB Tercuman" (2/2): "Interestingly enough, Turkey continues to view the Iraq issue through the 'lens' of Kirkuk in the post-election period. The Turkish government is busy making angry statements and talking about 'red lines' and implied threats. Leaving aside the Sunni boycott and the Iraqi resistance, the election process in Iraq was a success. But Ankara is giving the impression that it remains unhappy about it. . The anti-American rhetoric coming from PM Erdogan and FM Gul is very unfortunate, because such statements only put Turkey in the same category with Syria, Egypt, and Jordan on this matter. . It is no secret that Iraqi Kurds have a strong desire for independence and are pushing for Kirkuk to be part of the Kurdistan Regional Authority. It is also understandable that Turkey considers this as a matter of concern. But the current statements from the Turkish government are serving no purpose at all. It is very likely that a Kurdish figure, probably Talabani, will be the new president of Iraq. His close links with Turkey will certainly help to diminish this tendency toward independence.' Therefore Turkey should refrain from making inflammatory official statements that will only serve to incite more Turkish-Kurdish tension."

"Is it Only Iraq's Internal Issue?"
Sami Kohen commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/2): "The contradiction in Barzani and Talabani's statements makes me wonder if this is a difference of opinion or simply a difference of expression or tactics. The Barzani statement, that the Kurds will one day establish an independent state, most likely reflects the feelings of the majority of Iraqi Kurds. However, Zabari and Talabani's statements also prove that there are certain facts that place limitations on this concept. The Sunni Arabs, the Shiites, and the Turkmen in Iraq, as well as all neighboring countries and the US oppose the establishment of an independent Kurdish state in Iraq. It is therefore unthinkable that the Kurds could use force to achieve this goal. But it is also a fact that the Kurds will play a

broad role - both in their region and in the new administration in Baghdad - in the new political structure of Iraq. As I mentioned yesterday, Ankara has to determine new strategies that take these facts into account. Moreover, Ankara should be in dialogue with every other element in Iraq, including the Kurds, in order to establish stability and to prevent any kind of provocation and conflict. This would be to everyone's benefit. No one should interpret such a step as 'interference in internal issues.'

EDELMAN